

Indiana's Scenic Byways

Indiana has actively participated in the Scenic Byways Program for several years. Originating under ISTEA and expanded under TEA-21, the program recognizes highways that are notable examples of our nation's beauty, history, culture and recreational experience.

Because Indiana wants scenic byway designation to mean more than identification by a sign, the Indiana Scenic Byway Program emphasizes the same intrinsic qualities used under FHWA's national program.

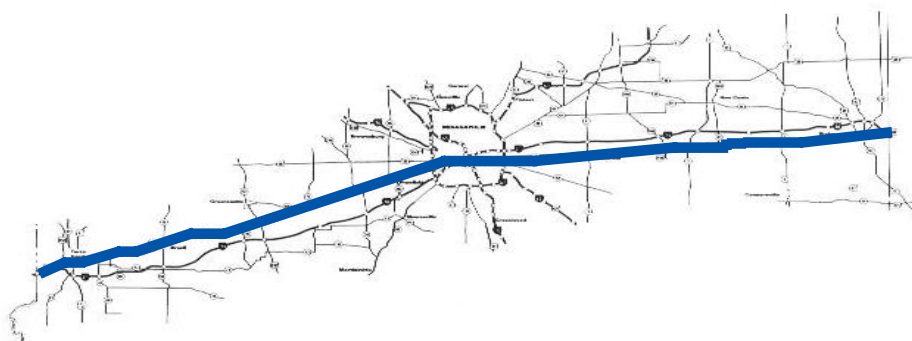
Indiana has two officially designated Scenic Byways: the Ohio River Scenic Byway and the Historic National Road. In August 2000 INDOT completed signing of the Ohio River Scenic Byway. Efforts are currently underway to develop a sign appropriate for the Historic National Road in Indiana.

The Ohio River Scenic Byway

In 1998 the Ohio and Illinois portions of the Ohio River Scenic Byway joined the Indiana section to form a 942-mile National Scenic Byway.

The Ohio River Scenic Route, Inc., the local support group in Indiana, worked for years to establish the scenic byway. Designated a state scenic byway in 1992 and a National Scenic Byway in 1996, the ORSB is based on a strategy for economic development that balances tourism with resource management.

Historic National Road



The Historic National Road was America's first interstate highway established by an act of Congress in 1806. The Indiana portion was built between 1829 and 1834, linking the eastern seashore with the western interior. In 1996 the Historic National Road was designated as a state scenic byway for its cultural and historic qualities. Driving the route evokes a sense of traveling through history, from historic architecture and early 19th century farms to nostalgic gas stations, historic monuments and genuine Midwestern scenic beauty. In the spring of 1998 INDOT nominated the state byway for national designation and on June 9, 1998 the Historic National Road in Indiana achieved official designation as a National Scenic Byway.